Report for induction of six ATR-42 aircraft. The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Retiring age of Air India Employees

1234. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether retiring age of Air India employees has been reduced from 60 to 58 years; and

(b) the steps taken including reduction of salaries and perks of employees, especially of pilots, cabin crew and engineers to ensure that the companyo runs into profit once again?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION ("SHRI SHARAD YADAV); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salaries & perks of employees have not been reduced as these are determined for specific wage period by Agreement/ Settlements entered into with the concerned Unions/Associations/ Guilds. However, in order to improve the financial position of Air India, following steps have been taken:—

(i) Marketing efforts have been stepped up to generate additional revenue, (ii) Network rationalization and consolidation with emphasis placed on route profitability, (iii) Reduction in expenditure on outside repairs of aircraft by undertaking more in-house repairs, (iv) Several posts of India based officers abroad have been abolished, (v) Freeze on exterpal recruitment in non-operational categories, (vi) Two voluntary schemes have been notified viz. shorter working week scheme and leave without pay/allowances scheme for a period of two years extendable upto five years.

Merger of lA and AI

†1235. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of merger of Indian Airlines into Air India is under consideration of Government; and

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†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether all the formalities of this merger have been completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Regulatory mechanism for Airport

1236. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the setting up of regulatory mechanism for airports in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) In the context of possible privatisation of airports in the country, the Government has received a suggestion to create a regulatory framework for airports independent of DGCA. No concrete decision has so far been taken.

Aircrafts with IA/AI

1237. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aircrafts which are in possession of the Indian Airlines and Air India indicating the number of aged aircrafts being used for lifting of air passengers by each Airline till date;

(b) whether old aircrafts used by IA on its subsidiaries are as per the international standards; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to abandon old/aged aircrafts considering the safety factor of passengers travelling by such planes and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The fleet of Air India consists of 26 aircraft with average age of 13.6 years.

The fleet of Indian Airlines/Alliance Air consists of 54 aircraft with average age of 12.8 years.